

PATENT SPECIFICATION

(11) 1 576 326

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- (21) Application No's 23176/76 (22) Filed 4 Jun. 1976
45079/76 29 Oct. 1976
- (23) Complete Specification Filed 2 Jun. 1977
- (44) Complete Specification Published 8 Oct. 1980
- (51) INT.CL.³ C11D 10/02
(C11D 10/02 1/38 1/40 1/58 1/62 1/645
3/20)
- (52) Index at Acceptance
C5D 6B11A 6B12K1 6B12K2 6B12P 6B13
6B6
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(54) TEXTILE TREATING COMPOSITIONS

- (71) We, THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY, a Company organised under the laws of the State of Ohio, U.S.A., of 301 East Sixth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, United States of America, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:-
- The invention relates to textile treatment compositions and, especially, textile softening compositions comprising cationic surfactants and certain highly insoluble carboxylates.
- It has long been recognised that certain chemical compounds have the capability of imparting softness to textile fabrics. These compounds, which are known generally as "softening agents", "fabric softeners", or "softeners", have been used both by the textile industry and by housewives in the laundry to soften a finished fabric, thereby making the fabric smooth, pliable and fluffy to handle. In addition to the quality of softness, the fabrics frequently have a reduced tendency to static cling and are easier to iron.
- The softening agents which are usually employed in compositions intended for use by the housewife are cationic surfactant compounds, commonly quaternary ammonium compounds having at least two long alkyl chains, for example distearyl dimethyl ammonium chloride. The positive charge on the softening compound encourages its deposition onto the fabric substrate, the surface of which is usually negatively charged.
- However, although the above mentioned cationic compounds are highly effective softeners when applied in a rinse solution, there are certain disadvantages associated with their use. For example, the cationic compounds having long alkyl chains are very sensitive to carry over of anionic detergent which tends to neutralize the softening effect because the anionic-cationic complex tends to precipitate out of solution. Also, certain cationic surfactant compounds are expensive and in short supply and it is therefore desirable for commercial reasons, to provide softening compositions having a reduced amount of cationic surfactant compound. Furthermore, softening compositions which comprise predominantly long chain cationic compounds have the disadvantage that the treated fabrics tend to become overloaded with softener and become discoloured, greasy or undesirably non-absorbent.
- It is known that highly insoluble carboxylates, specifically the heavy metal soaps typified by calcium stearate, have textile softening properties. For instance, British Patent 1,329,416 describes detergent compositions having textile softening effect comprising anionic, nonionic, zwitterionic or amphoteric surfactants and finely dispersed insoluble soaps. Cationic surfactants are generally deemed to be poor detergents, in that they do not remove dirt very well. Thus it is understandable that the inventors of BP 1,329,416 did not include them among suitable detergent actives for their detergent compositions. What they evidently failed to observe, and do not disclose, is that cationic surfactants enhance the deposition and hence the effectiveness of these insoluble soaps upon fabrics.
- The present invention provides a textile-treating composition comprising
- a fabric-substantive cationic surfactant, and
 - a substantially water-insoluble salt of a carboxylic acid having from 16 to 24 carbon

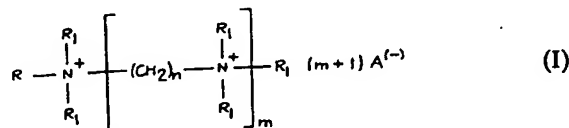
atoms.

The compositions are preferably intended to be formulated as aqueous dispersion for use as rinse additives, i.e., to be added to the final rinse liquor after a laundering operation. However, they may be formulated so as to be suitable for spraying on to fabrics as from an aerosol container, or they may be in paste or granular form or encapsulated and in the form of a dispersion of microcapsules, or they may be releasably associated with a rigid or flexible insoluble substrate.

The Cationic Surfactant

Any fabric substantive cationic material can be utilised in the present invention, but preferred surfactants are from the group consisting of

- (i) non-cyclic quaternary ammonium salts having two C_{12-30} alkyl chains,
- (ii) substituted amine salts of the formula



wherein R is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or alkenyl group having 10 to 22 carbon atoms; each R_1 is independently selected from hydrogen, $(C_2H_4O)_pH$ or $(C_3H_6O)_pH$, where p is from 1 to 3, and C_{1-3} alkyl; m is from 0 to 6; n is from 2 to 6; and $A^{(-)}$ represents an anion,

- (iii) C_{8-25} alkyl imidazolinium salts,
- (iv) C_{12-20} alkyl pyridinium salts, and
- (v) a mixture of any two or more of these.

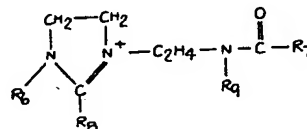
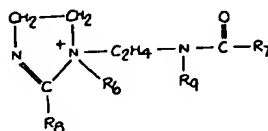
The general term "substituted alkyl" is intended to include alkyl groups interrupted by functional groups such as -O-, -S-, - C_6H_4 -, etc.

The preferred cationic surfactants of class (i) useful in the present invention are quaternary ammonium salts of the general formula



wherein groups R_2 and R_3 are each $C_{16}-C_{20}$ alkyl and groups R_4 and R_5 are each C_1-C_4 alkyl or hydroxyalkyl, and A is an anion, for example chloride, bromide, methyl sulfate, etc.

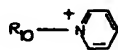
Alkyl imidazolinium salts of class (iii) useful in the present invention are generally believed to have cations of the general formula



wherein R_6 is a C_1-C_4 alkyl radical, R_7 is C_9-C_{25} alkyl, R_8 is hydrogen or a C_8-C_{25} alkyl radical and R_9 is hydrogen or a C_1-C_4 alkyl radical.

A preferred member of this class is believed to have R_6 methyl and R_7 and R_8 tallow alkyl, R_9 hydrogen, and is commercially available under the trade name VARISOFT 455, marketed by Ashland Chemical Company, Ohio, U.S.A. Also suitable are the imidazoles softeners described in Specification No. 854,803 published Belgian Patent.

Alkyl pyridinium salts of class (iv) useful in the present invention have cations of the general formula

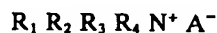


5 wherein R_{10} is a C_{12} - C_{20} , preferably C_{16} or C_{18} alkyl radical. 5

It will be understood that the main function of the cationic surfactant is to encourage deposition of softener and it is not, therefore, essential that the cationic surfactant itself have substantial softening properties, although this may be the case. Indeed, it is preferred that at least a part of the cationic component of the composition comprises a surfactant having only a single alkyl chain, as such compounds have greater solubility in water and can more effectively provide the appropriate positive charge distribution and the degree of hydration on the surface of the emulsified monionic softener particle. 10

Thus, compounds of class (ii) are especially those having a single C_{12} - C_{22} , preferably C_{14} - C_{18} , alkyl group. 10

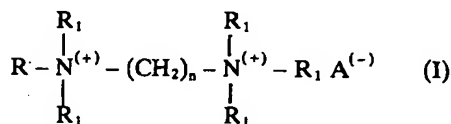
One group of preferred cationic surfactants of class (ii) are the quaternary ammonium salts of the formula 15



20 wherein group R_1 is C_{12} - C_{22} , preferably C_{16} - C_{18} fatty alkyl and groups R_2 , R_3 and R_4 are each C_1 - C_4 alkyl, preferably methyl. 20

Another group of useful surfactants of class (ii) are the mono-amine salts of the formula $R_1 R_2 R_3 N^+ H A^-$ where R_1 is C_{12} - C_{22} , preferably C_{16} - C_{18} alkyl and R_2 and R_3 are each selected independently from hydrogen and C_1 - C_4 alkyl, especially methyl. 25

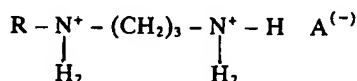
Also useful in the present invention are substituted polyamine salts of the general formula



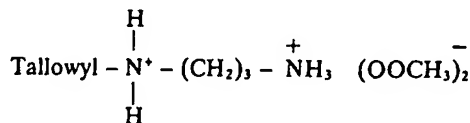
30 wherein R , R_1 , A and n are as hereinbefore defined. 30

The polyamine salts of this type provide additional positive charge to the particle and thereby improve deposition of the heavy metal soaps. 35

40 The mono substituted derivatives of 1,3-diaminopropanol are very effective, that is compounds of the formula 40



50 wherein R is as described above, and preferably is predominantly C_{16} - C_{18} alkyl, derived from tallow fatty acids. A^- may represent a dihalide or any appropriate acidic radical such as the diacetate, or higher saturated or unsaturated acyl groups up to C_{22} . A preferred compound of this class is believed to have the formula 55



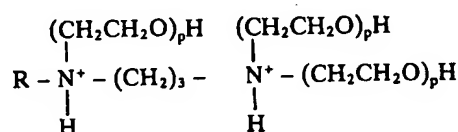
60 and is sold under the trade names Dinoramac (Messrs. Pierrefitte-Auby) or Duomac (Messrs. 65
Armour-Hess), or more preferably the corresponding halide, especially chloride. "Tallowyl" 65

represents the predominantly C₁₆ to C₁₈ alkyl groups derived from tallow fatty acids.

The unprotonated amine may also be used to prepare the compositions but it is highly preferred for a good product performance that their pH be such that at least one of the amine groups of the polyamine is present in them, or at least in the treatment bath, in protonated form.

Also suitable are the corresponding diquaternary ammonium salts such as N-tallow-N,N,N',N',N' pentamethyl-1,3 propylene diammonium dichloride, which is commercially available under the trade names STABIRAN MS-3 (Pierrefitte-Auby), DUOMAC (Armour-Hess); and ADOGEN 477 (Ashland Co.), and N-tallow-N,N',N'-triethanol-1,3-propylenediamine hydrochloride.

Highly preferred diamines are compounds carrying ethoxylate groups on the nitrogen atoms, for example those having the general formula



Especially useful members of this class have $p = 1$ and a C₁₆ - C₂₂ alkyl chain.

The Carboxylic Acid Salt

The water insoluble carboxylates should preferably be highly insoluble, that is they should have water solubility less than 20 g. per litre at 25°C, preferably less than 1 g. per litre. Preferred carboxylates are the heavy metal salts of fatty acids (whether derived from natural fats or synthetically, and whether saturated or unsaturated) having about 16 to 24 carbon atoms. Suitable acids include palmitic, oleic, linoleic, stearic, arachidic, behenic, and the like. Suitable metals include calcium, magnesium, aluminium, zinc, barium and others, with preference for those whose carboxylates are uncoloured. The mono, di, and where applicable, tri-carboxylates may be employed. Preferred are calcium distearate and aluminium distearate.

The proportions of cationic surfactant and insoluble carboxylate in the compositions can vary quite widely. Thus, the relative proportions of cationic and carboxylate can be from about 50:1 to about 1:10, preferably from about 10:1 to 2:3, and especially from about 3:2 to 2:3. The actual concentration of these components in the compositions of the invention depends upon the extent to which they are designed to be diluted in a treatment bath or solution. Rinse additive compositions used at low concentrations have become widely employed in recent years and the amount to be used has become conventional. If the present compositions are intended to be used in the rinse in these now conventional amounts, a concentration about 0.1 to 15% cationic surfactant, preferably from about 2 to 10% by weight is appropriate, and from about 0.1 to 10%, preferably about 1 to 6% of insoluble carboxylate. Of course, smaller amounts of more concentrated dispersions could be used. In the actual treatment bath, a concentration of about 10 to 25 parts per million to 0.1%, preferably about 50 to 500 ppm by weight of heavy metal carboxylate and cationic together may be employed. Higher concentrations might be used in compositions intended to be sprayed neat onto fabrics.

Optional Ingredients

In addition to the cationic surfactant and soluble carboxylate, the compositions may contain small amounts of nonionic surfactants as emulsifiers. In particular, however, they may contain nonionic components, not necessarily surfactants, having beneficial effects upon the fabrics to be treated or in the ironing operation. Preferred nonionic fabric conditioning substances are textile softeners represented by fatty acid esters and partial esters of mono- or polyhydric alcohols having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms. It is preferred that the fatty acid ester should have at least 1 free, i.e., unesterified, hydroxyl group and at least one fatty acyl group. Such additives include nonionic textile softening agents such as sorbitan esters, as described in German Offenlegungsschrift 2,516,104, glyceride esters of C₁₂ - C₂₂ fatty acids, e.g., glycerylmonostearate, and fatty alkyl esters of C₂ - C₆ polyols, and zwitterionic surfactants or amine or phosphine oxides as described in U.S. Patent No. 3,686,025. Other substances which may be added are pyrodextrins and substituted dextrins as described in the complete specification of British patent application 23170/76 which is cognated with, *inter alia*, British patent applications 23172/76 and 23173/76 (Serial No. 1549180).

In rinse-added compositions, a content of about 1 to about 10% by weight, preferably

about 1.5 to about 6% of said agents is usually suitable.

In addition to the above described components, the compositions may contain other textile treatment or conditioning agents. Such agents include silicones. Some suitable silicones are predominantly linear polymers, that is they are poly dialkyl- or diaryl-siloxanes. The alkyl groups have 1 to 5 carbon atoms, and are preferably methyl. The alkyl groups may be wholly or partially fluorinated. A limited degree of cross linking can be tolerated, and up to about 10% by weight of mono-alkyl siloxanes may be present in the silicones.

Preferred silicones are polydimethyl siloxanes having viscosity at 25°C in the range 100 to 200000 centistokes, preferably 1000 to 120000. Other preferred silicones are fluorinated silicones having viscosity at 25°C of at least 100 centistokes, as described in German Offenlegungsschrift No. 2,631,419. Preferred are silicones of cationic character as described in our co-pending British patent application 23171/76 (Serial No. 1549180). These silicones are either:

(a) A predominantly linear di C₁-C₅ alkyl or C₁-C₅ alkyl, aryl siloxane having a viscosity at 25°C of at least 100 centistokes, prepared using a cationic surfactant as emulsifier.

(b) An α , ω -di quaternised di C₁-C₅ alkyl or C₁-C₅ alkyl aryl silicone polymer, or

(c) An amino-functional di C₁-C₅ alkyl or alkyl aryl siloxane polymer in which the amino group may be substituted and may be quaternised and in which the degree of substitution (d.s.) lies in the range 0.001 to 0.1, preferably 0.01 to 0.07.

The silicone component is preferably used in an amount of from about 0.5% to about 10%, most preferably from 1% to 6% of the softener composition. When these additional components are included the ratio of cationic surfactant to total of insoluble soap and additional component is usually in the range from about 10:1 to 1:10.

Other components appropriate to the type of compositions being formulated may also be present. Such components are preservatives, bactericides, whether effective to protect the composition or to treat fabrics, viscosity controllers, colouring and perfuming materials and the like.

In preparing the aqueous dispersions of the invention the components may be simply mixed into the aqueous medium optionally with small amounts of nonionic surfactants, or lower alcohols. Preferably the insoluble carboxylate is mixed first into molten cationic surfactant, optionally together with other conditioning agents mentioned above, and this mixture dispersed in the aqueous medium.

EXAMPLE 1

A composition was prepared by dispersing of 5.9% by weight of molten ditallow dimethyl ammonium chloride (DTDMAC) and 2% aluminium distearate in water. Fabrics steeped in a dilute aqueous solution of the composition and dried were found to be softer than fabrics treated with a similar composition containing no distearate, and as soft as fabric treated with a composition comprising 8.0% DTDMAC in water.

Substantially the same results are obtained if the aluminium distearate is replaced by aluminium tristearate, monostearate, dipalmitate, trioleate, or dibehenate.

EXAMPLE 2

A composition was prepared consisting of a dispersion of 4% by weight of tallowyl propylene diamine hydrochloride, and 3.5% of calcium distearate in water. Fabrics steeped in a dilute aqueous solution of the composition and dried were found to be as soft as fabrics treated with a similar composition comprising 5.9% DTDMAC and softer than those treated with a composition comprising 8.8% tallowyl propylene diamine hydrochloride.

Substantially the same results are obtained if the calcium distearate is replaced by magnesium distearate, zinc distearate, barium distearate, calcium monostearate, calcium mono- or dibehenate.

EXAMPLES 3 & 4

Compositions were prepared consisting of dispersions in water of, by weight:

3. 4.0% Duoquad (Trade Name)

3.0% calcium distearate

55 4. 4.0% Duomeen (Trade Name)

4.0% calcium distearate

Both had softening effect equivalent to that of 5.9% ditallowyl dimethyl ammonium chloride, than which, at current prices, the composition especially of Example 4 is considered cheaper.

Substantially similar performance is obtained if the 4% DUOMEEN of Example 4 is replaced by 2% cetyl trimethyl ammonium bromide and 2% DTDMAC; by 4% tallowyl propylene diamine methosulphate; by 4% cetyl pyridinium chloride, by 4% VARISOFT (trade name); by 4% ADOGEN 477 (trade name); or by 4% LILAMIN 540E03 (from Lilachim), a hydrogenated tallow alkyl propylene diamine having three ethylene oxide groups.

EXAMPLE 5

A textile treatment composition is prepared by dispersing a melt of the following components in 92 parts (%) by weight of water

- 5 1.5% Ditalow dimethyl ammonium chloride
 1.5% Cetyl trimethyl ammonium chloride 5
 1.5% Glycerine monostearate
 1.5% Silicone (viscosity 4000 c.s. at 25°C)
 2.0% Calcium distearate.

10 In this composition the glycerine monostearate may be replaced by sorbitan monostearate, ethylene glycol monostearate, diglycerol monostearate, xylitol monopalmitate, or a 1:2 molar mixture of glycerine tristearate and monostearate. 10

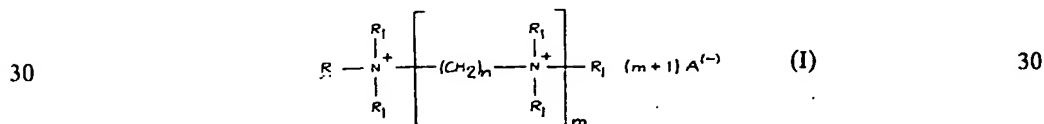
EXAMPLE 6

15 A textile treatment composition was prepared by mixing a melt of 9 part VARISOFT 455 (Imidazolinium textile softener marketed by Ashland Chemical Co.) and 1 part aluminium distearate in 90 parts of water. 15

The composition is an effective textile softener when employed as a dilute aqueous solution.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:-

- 20 1. A textile treating composition comprising
 (a) a fabric substantive cationic surfactant. 20
 (b) a substantially water-insoluble salt of a carboxylic acid having from 16 to 24 carbon atoms.
 2. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the cationic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of
 (i) non-cyclic quaternary ammonium salts having two C₁₂ - C₃₀ alkyl chains, 25
 (ii) substituted polyamine salts of formula



35 wherein R is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or alkenyl group having 10 to 22 carbon atoms; each R₁ is independently selected from hydrogen, C₁-C₃ alkyl, and (C₂H₄O)_pH or (C₃H₆O)_pH, where p is from 1 to 3; m is from 0 to 6; n is from 2 to 6; and A⁻ represents an anion. 35

- 40 (iii) C₈₋₂₅ alkyl imidazolinium salts. 40
 (iv) C₁₂₋₂₀ pyridinium salts, and
 (v) a mixture of any two or more of these.
 3. A composition according to claim 2 wherein the cationic compound is a non-cyclic quaternary ammonium salt having the formula



wherein R₂ and R₃ are each a C₁₆-C₂₀ alkyl group, R₄ and R₅ are each a C₁ - C₄ alkyl or hydroxy alkyl group and A is an anion.

50 4. A composition according to claim 3 wherein R₂ is a C₁₆₋₁₈ alkyl group, and R₃, R₄ and R₅ are each methyl. 50

5. A composition according to claim 4 wherein the cationic compound is a cetyl trimethyl ammonium halide.

6. A composition according to claim 2 wherein the cationic compound has the formula I wherein R is a C₁₂₋₂₀ alkyl group, m is 1, and each R₁ is selected from hydrogen, a C₁₋₃ alkyl group, and an ethoxy group containing 1 or 2 ethylene oxide units. 55

7. A composition according to claim 6 wherein the cationic compound is a non-quaternized diammonium salt.

8. A composition according to claim 6 or claim 7 which additionally includes a non-cyclic quaternary ammonium salt having two C₁₂-C₃₀ alkyl chains and two C₁-C₄ alkyl groups. 60

9. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the carboxylic acid salts are insoluble soaps of C₁₆₋₂₄ fatty acids.

10. A composition according to claim 9 wherein the soaps are any of those of calcium, magnesium, aluminium, zinc or barium.

65 11. A composition according to claim 9 wherein the said carboxylic acid salt is calcium distearate or aluminium distearate. 65

12. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the weight ratio of cationic surfactant to insoluble salt is from 50:1 to 1:10.

13. A composition according to claim 12 wherein the weight ratio of cationic component to insoluble salt is from 3:2 or 2:3.

5 14. A textile treatment article comprising a non-particulate water-insoluble substrate 5 having in water-releasable combination therewith a composition as claimed in any one of claims 1-13.

10 15. A composition substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the Examples.

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